

Docket No.: 01-22 US

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 21 and ending on page 21, line 6, which begins with the phrase "According to one embodiment of the invention, flow cell manifold block", with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- According to one embodiment of the invention, flow cell manifold block 150 (Figure 2) is adapted to operatively receive a plurality of dip probes or fiber-optic probes of similar design. Referring now to Figure 3, an example of a dip probe of conventional design, generally designated DP, is illustrated by way of background. In conventional use, dip probe DP is inserted into a test vessel V so that the lower portion of its tip 121 is submerged in media held by test vessel V, thereby allowing absorbance measurements directly in test vessel V. Dip probe DP typically includes a flow cell 123 or similar sample target area defined by a gap between a fused silica or quartz lens or seal 125 and a suitable light-reflective surface such as a mirror 127. Dip probe DP operates in conjunction with a spectrophotometer 130 that includes a light source 132 and a detection means such as a photodiode amplifier/detector 134. A first, light-transmitting fiber-optic cable 136 runs between spectrophotometer 130 and glass seal 125. A second, light-returning fiber-optic cable 138 runs between glass seal 125 back to spectrophotometer 130, and usually includes an interference filter 141 or similar component. In use, a beam of light emitted by light source 132 is guided by first fiber-optic cable 136 along the direction of arrow A into flow cell 123. This beam of light passes through the media residing in

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Via MaxEmail Pg 4/31 01-29-04 08:02 PM

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flow cell 123, is reflected by mirror 127, and thus is redirected into second fiber-optic cable 138 along the direction indicated by arrow B. The light beam then passes through interference filter 141 and returns to spectrophotometer 130 where the signal is processed by detector 134. --